U.S. Embassy Asuncion, Paraguay Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Upcoming Protests in Asuncion Friday, March 21, 2014

The U.S. Embassy alerts U.S. citizens that there is a demonstration scheduled for Friday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in Asuncion. Significant protest activity is expected in the downtown area. The announced purpose of the event is to protest against a recent decision to remove an anti-corruption prosecutor.

A large number of demonstrators are expected in downtown Asuncion, specifically near La Plaza Uruguaya and the Public Ministry. The group plans to gather at La Plaza Uruguaya and then march with torches to the Public Ministry building.

Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Paraguay enroll in the <u>State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> (<u>STEP</u>). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates and makes is easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's <u>website</u>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for Paraguay</u>. For additional information, refer to <u>"A Safe Trip Abroad"</u> on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call <u>1-888-407-4747</u> toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or <u>1-202-501-4444</u> from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u>,

and download our free Smart Traveler App, available through <u>iTunes</u> and the <u>Android market</u>, to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Asuncion is located at 1776 Mariscal Lopez Avenue.

U.S. Embassy Asuncion contact information:

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